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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1413th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 March 1992, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Organization of work

- Pacific regional seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (8-10 June 1993)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: We shall first take up the establishment of an open-ended Working Group. As members will recall, at our opening meeting on 10 February 1993, I informed members that I intended to hold consultations in respect of the establishment of an open-ended Working Group. In that connection, I wish to inform members that I have held consultations with some members and also that the Bureau of the Committee has held consultations in that regard. As a result of those consultations and taking into account the positive results achieved during the past two years, the Bureau has decided to recommend to the Committee that the open-ended Working Group should be maintained with the same composition and mandate.

For ease of reference, the composition and mandate of last year's open-ended Working Group is contained in its report in document A/AC.109/L.1776, paragraphs 2 and 3, which was distributed to members at the outset of the meeting.

If there are no comments, may I take it that members are in agreement with the establishment of the open-ended Working Group, including its composition and mandate?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: As regards the chairmanship of the open-ended Working Group, I call on the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. MESSAOUD (Tunisia) (interpretation from French): My delegation wishes to thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting, and I am certain that our work under your chairmanship will be very successful.

(Mr. Messaoud, Tunisia)

As concerns the open-ended Working Group, and following consultations with the members of the Bureau, my delegation, on behalf of the Bureau, proposes to appoint you, Sir, as Chairman of that Working Group. We are well aware of your great abilities and the able way in which you conducted the work of that Group last year. The Bureau therefore wishes once again to entrust this task to you, bearing in mind how well you performed it in the past, and we are certain you will continue to do so this year. We therefore nominate you, Sir, to preside over this Working Group.

Mr. OVALLE (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish simply to endorse the proposal just made by the representative of Tunisia. We are certain, Sir, that your acceptance of the chairmanship of the open-ended Working Group will guarantee the success of its work.

Mr. DIARRA (Mali) (interpretation from French): I too support the excellent proposal just made by my colleague and friend from Tunisia, for the same reasons as those of which he and the representative of Chile spoke. We would be grateful, Sir, if you would be gracious enough to accept the chairmanship of the open-ended Working Group.

Mr. JENIE (Indonesia): My delegation too would like to support the proposal made by our colleague from Tunisia, that you, Sir, serve as Chairman of the open-ended Working Group.

Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji): My delegation wishes to support the nomination put forward by the representative of Tunisia and endorsed by previous speakers, that you, Sir, should serve as Chairman of the open-ended Working Group.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no further comments, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the proposal of the representative of Tunisia that, as in previous years, I should chair the open-ended Working Group.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf to express deep gratitude to all the members of the Committee for the honour they have bestowed upon my country, Papua New Guinea, in appointing me once again Chairman of the open-ended Working Group. I hope that, with the support and assistance of the Bureau and the other members of the Committee, we shall continue the good work that has been done in the last two years and,

(The Chairman)

I hope, make progress on the problems we have faced both in the Special Committee itself and in the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly.

In order to make maximal use of the time available, and so that the Subcommittee can take into account the recommendations of the open-ended Working Group, I suggest that the open-ended Working Group commence its work as soon as possible. I would propose that, unless there is an objection, the Working Group hold its first meeting on Thursday, 11 March 1993.

I urge members to submit to the Secretariat, in writing and as soon as possible, any suggestions or proposals they may wish to put before the open-ended Working Group regarding the further rationalization of the work of the Special Committee.

PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE SMALL ISLAND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, TO BE HELD IN PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (8-10 June 1993)

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider the regional seminar to be held in the Pacific region. In that connection, I wish to draw the attention of members to aide-mémoire 2/93, circulated on 23 February 1993, which contains the text of a letter received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea stating the willingness of his Government to host the Pacific regional seminar in Port Moresby in May-June 1993, as well as my reply to that letter. As of today, I have received no views to the contrary, and I therefore take it that the Committee decides to accept the invitation of the Government of Papua New Guinea.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The draft guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminar have been distributed by the Secretariat. They are similar to those we used at previous seminars.

As regards the dates of the seminar, the period 8 to 10 June 1993 was proposed and has been accepted by the Government of Papua New Guinea.

Regarding the composition of the Committee's delegation to the seminar, I would request the regional groups in the Committee to hold consultations among themselves and to nominate the participants from among their members. During its discussions the Bureau decided to recommend to the Committee that two members from each regional group participate in the seminar. In addition, the Bureau decided to recommend that the Commmittee invite representatives from all the Territories in the Pacific region; that it invite the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to designate one representative from one of the Caribbean Territories to represent the Territories of that region; and that it invite all administering Powers, all Member States from the region and regional organizations in the Pacific as appropriate.

As regards the other participants, I have requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of possible invitees from which the Bureau will make its selection. As soon as that task has been completed I shall report back to the Committee.

(The Chairman)

I should like to draw members' attention to the draft guidelines, page 3, subparagraph (b), where reference is made to Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly small island Territories under General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). The Bureau has decided to include also a reference to resolution 1514 (XV); thus, the document should read:

"General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960".

I should also like to draw your attention to page 5, subparagraph (t). The Bureau also decided that we should insert the words "dissemination of" between "Importance of" and "information". Thus, it would read:

"Importance of dissemination of information to and from the Non-Self-Governing Territories ...".

Mr. DIARRA (Mali) (interpretation from French): I wish to refer to the list of participants in the seminar as communicated to us just a moment ago. I recall that last year we discussed the desirability of inviting Territories from the other region to participate in the seminar. In other words, if the seminar is held in the Pacific, we discussed whether it was advisable to invite representatives from the Caribbean to take part in the seminar held in the Pacific, and vice versa. I should like you to remind us, if you would, what decision we took in that respect.

The CHAIRMAN: I acknowledge that discussion of this important aspect of the regional seminars was raised at the Grenada seminar, and a general agreement was reached in that respect. In trying to implement that agreement for the Pacific seminar, and noting that there was no representative from the Pacific region at the Grenada seminar, we have incorporated, for

(The Chairman)

this year's seminar, an invitation to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) to designate a representative of the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate on behalf of the other Territories of the region, within the financial resources of the Special Committee. Rather than inviting all the Territories in the Caribbean the Bureau decided to extend an invitation through CDCC, of which some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region are full members.

I understand that the representative of Mali is satisfied with that explanation. Are there any further comments?

Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago): At this point, may I take the opportunity to congratulate you publicly, Sir, as I have already done privately, on your election as Chairman of the Committee of 24, and also to extend my delegation's congratulations to you on your well-deserved appointment to the chairmanship of the open-ended Working Group.

I should just like to seek clarification regarding the point raised by the representative of Mali. Is the invitation going to be extended to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), or is the matter going to be raised with the CDCC with a view to that body's selecting a representative from one or two of the Territories? I am not sure how that is going to work. Also, how many representatives will be selected from the Caribbean to attend the seminar?

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Trinidad and Tobago for the kind words she addressed to me.

(The Chairman)

In response to her inquiries, the invitation would be formally extended to the Chairman of CDCC, who would consult with the members of that organization in order to nominate one of its members, a Non-Self-Governing Territory. Thus, the representation of CDCC and the Non-Self-Governing Territories would be by a representative from a Non-Self-Governing Territory, rather than a full, independent member of CDCC. However, the coordination of that nomination would, in our view, be better done by the Chairman of CDCC, who is from Grenada. I intend to hold consultations with the Chairman of CDCC, Grenada, to that effect. But if the representative of Trinidad and Tobago has a better suggestion, I should appreciate it very much, because this is important.

Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago): At this stage my delegation would not like to disrupt the arrangements already made with the representative of Grenada, so we shall go along.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to add that I have not yet held any consultations with Grenada on this question, because I wanted the Committee to decide, and on that basis I shall hold the necessary consultations for implementing the decision of the Committee.

Are there any further comments?

As that is not the case, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to the recommendations put before it by the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Also, since the members are in agreement with the contents of the draft guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminar, I take it that I may request the Secretariat to issue them as an official document of the Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The next meeting of the Committee will be announced in the Journal of the United Nations.

I thank members for the time they have taken to agree on the work of the Committee, and I hope that the open-ended Working Group will soon be able to start to take up the matters before it in order to allow the Subcommittee to carry out its important task in making preparations for the July meetings of the Special Committee.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.